Opening of branch post office in Vasant Vihar

3710. SHRI T. R. BALU: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that no branch post office has been opened so far in Vasant Vihar Central Government Housing Complex where more than 2500 people are residing; and

(b) if so what are the reasons for the delay in opening a post office there and what steps are being taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI GIRIDHAR GOMANGO): (a) and (b) There are two post offices at present functioning in the area, namely, Vasant Vihar I and Vasant Vhiar II. In addition, construction is going on for a departmental building for a third post office (Vasant Lok). The new building which is under construction is at a distance of only half a kilometer from the Central Government Housing Complex.

Conversion of Manually Operated Telephone Exchanges

3711. PROF. C. LAKSHMANNA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) what is the number of telephone exchanges in Andhra Pradesh excluding Hyderabad Telephone District;

(b) how many of them are electronic exchanges;

(c) whether there is any proposal to replace some of the manually operated exchanges by automatic exchanges; and

(d) if so, by when Government propose to complete this programme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI GIRIDHAR GOMANGO): (a) The number of telephone exchanges in Andhra Pradesh excluding those under Hyderabad telephone district is 1924.

(b) There are 26 electronic exchanges.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) The manual exchanges are being automatised in a phased manner subject to availability of equipment, it is expected that all manual exchanges will be automatised by end of the 8th Five Year Plan.

Work of Technology Mission in Andhra Pradesh

3712. PROF. C. LAKSHMANNA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) what specific projects are under consideration of the Telecommunications technology mission for Andhra Pradesh;

(b) to what extent the work of the technology mission would cover Andhra Pradesh during the last two years of Seventh Five Year Plan Period; and

(c) what additional inputs have been channelised to Andhra Pradesh under the technology mission?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI GIRIDHAR GOMANGO): (a) The important specific projects planned for Andhra Pradesh under Technoloby Missions on Telecommunications are given in the enclosed Statement (*See* below).

(b) Technology Mission on Telecommunications will cover the following activities during last two years of Seventh Five Year Plan:—

(i) Improve Quality of Service.

(ii) Increase Urban PCOs.

(iii) Improve Delivery of Telegrams.

(iv) Provide Telex on demand.

(v) Improve Rural Communications and

(vi) Induct Digital Electronic Equipment as part of National Digital Network.